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Point three

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Birmingham Outward Group

The magazine of



TOC H

Point three

the magazine of 

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

'A True Christian'

Do you remember the expression 'He/she's a true Christian'? I heard it again recently whilst driving from Bridlington to Leeds with Staff Development Officer Bill Bains. We were returning from a visit to Bridlington TAG, who wanted advice about celebrating 10 years of existence with a Festival in July, and we had been discussing how to publicise the event.

The person Bill had been describing was probably not a churchgoer at all - he was a gentle giant of a young man in his mid-20s who had been with the TAG for all its 10 years - and yet, with his shoulder-length hair of tumbling curls, he might well have been one of Christ's first Christians, or, on second thoughts, a cavalier.

The point is that he practised Christian values in his everyday life as a WAY of Life. And that's what you find in Toc H - the practice of Christian caring. A way of life that emerges from spirituality, but not necessarily from churchgoing.

It is not a sign of sloppy values that Toc H opens its doors to everyone. It is the practice of Christian caring that we do not slam the door in the face of our fellow men and women. After all what is it that encourages people to join the movement in the first place, if not a wish to put something back into life?

Some insist that the movement has become watered down, but the silent voice is a mixture of all denominations who want to help their fellow men - as well as those who are searching for the truth and for God. It would be a bit like apartheid to divide the movement up into those who attend church and not, and to discriminate against those who don't.

In this month's magazine there is an article about the Birmingham Outward Group - BOG. One of the young

people I spoke with had completely absorbed the Toc H magic. His whole manner and personality seemed to proclaim it. He had obviously had rather a tough life and had greatly appreciated learning outdoor skills and visiting beautiful places during his years with BOG. Now that he had reached his late teens he wanted to give something back. He said so, in a quiet and unselfconscious way. It was a marvellous feeling to talk to someone who so clearly epitomised a very positive view of the Toc H of the future.

The Birmingham Outward Group has 48 members on its roll, and yet only 11 are signed up members of Toc H. The same must apply in the Toc H Action Groups, TAGs, and in many areas of the movement. And, as the Revd Bob Knight says at the beginning of *An Honest Test* (which has just been updated and handsomely reprinted), 'Five thousand men and women are supported from time to time by several thousand others; on some occasions as many as ten times the recorded membership'.

Perhaps we are moving into an era where there will be two sorts of membership - those who are actively involved, or on a mailing list to receive information about the movement and, of course, *Point three!* - and those who have, from experience at this level of membership, gone deeper into what the movement and the Four Points are all about and decided to become signed up members.

It seems sad when branches like Biggleswade Mens tell me, with something very akin to despair, that they might have to disband because of dwindling numbers and the advance of age. So many branches gain new life when they go joint, as happened to Oatlands in Harrogate, who are featured in *Point three* this month. But, even if that is not a practical possibility, think of the ripple effect they have had on countless peoples' lives over the years. Those are the sort of people who might not want to sign up immediately on the dotted line, but they might well want to know more about us.

Ruth Boyd

Editor: Ruth Boyd

Editorial Assistant: Thomas Hill Long

Cover

At the Passchendaele Cemetery:

Back to the Future II

Daniel Obie is on the left

Photo by David Harrison

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Tel: 0296 623911)

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BRANCH NEWS

We would like to receive more news from branches about their work in the community, such as individual projects.

WHO DECIDES OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE?

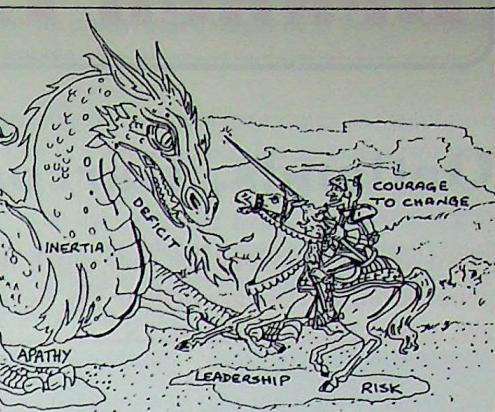
Financial Conference 1991

The editor joined a weighty assembly of Regional Chairmen, Regional Treasurers and their guests from the membership, together with four members of the Finance Committee, at Alison House from 12-14 April for the annual Finance Conference. Other members of staff present included Fundraiser Ian Pearce, Executive Secretary Stewart Casimir and Finance Administrator Peter Mackay (Finance Committee).

It felt a bit like attending King Arthur's Camelot for a meeting of the Knights of the Round Table - with people described as 'the cream of the movement' arriving from all the regions in England, Scotland and Wales. But we had moved into the 20th century and it was good to see that a third of the representatives were women. One of them pointed out that the weekend was very much Tubby's ideal of the perfect Toc H mix - people meeting on equal and relaxed terms: people who knew what they were talking about and who were representing the needs of members.

Conibeer. His Treasurer's Guide to Branch and District Accounting was welcomed as a highly professional achievement, which also gave a concise picture of the movement and our objectives. It presented the movement as one that is very much alive and with a future. Which was a theme throughout the weekend.

There were frequent reminders of why we continue to belong to Toc H and work for it. Don Cullen, Mid East Regional Chairman, summed up the feeling when he said: 'We provide love and service to the community.'



There was a strong feeling that the gathering had a weighty contribution to offer Toc H in terms of expertise and talent and the Conference concluded that, in order to maximise this, it should become a more formal body making an authoritative contribution to the CEC - particularly since the very size of Central Council makes it ineffective as a policy-making body.

Another suggestion was for a Membership Audit. It was concluded that we do not know enough about our membership - details such as religious denomination, whether working or retired, how they joined Toc H and why. Such information was felt to be useful in all sorts of ways, not least in helping to regenerate the movement and in giving a clearer general view of members' interests.

Ian Pearce emphasised that his activities were an essential part in making ends meet and that it was no good fundraising to 'sell' the movement unless we have got something to sell. By this he was emphasising the importance of a strong movement, the need to build up that strength and to raise our profile to the public. The revival of branch life might involve some financial outlay.

Whether to spend capital in order to increase membership was a subject held over for future discussion, as were any final thoughts about whether employing more staff would result in more members. Several people were concerned to get a better geographical spread of staff, particularly in the North. The regional chairmen felt strongly that they should play a more effective role in the setting of targets. The main findings of the weekend, such as the logical strengthening of the conference status, were to be reported to the next meeting of the CEC by Principal Officer and Honorary Treasurer, Ted Tunnadine, supported by Regional Treasurer Gerry Conibeer. ■



Regional Chairmen, Treasurers and their Guests assembled at Alison House.

It was a true democratic representation, with the regional treasurers escorting their chairmen. The Chairman of North East Region, Anne Puddicombe, at 26 is a sharp reminder that we do appeal to young people and that they are willing to accept responsibility in the movement.

Several guests were professionally involved in the world of finance and accounting, as are some of the treasurers - such as Gerry

That's what we're all about'.

It was felt that a lack of success in harnessing available talent and skills is one of the shortcomings of the movement and that a more democratic representation on the CEC - representatives elected on the principle of one-man one-vote - might help to alleviate that situation and the suspicion and bad feeling that poor communication inevitably causes.

Branch Life in the 1990's

Oatlands, Harrogate

'Two of our members are very much the younger generation, and two are in their 50s. Beyond that we are in our 70s — ANTIQUES!'

The branch went joint four years ago and Oatlands is an example of how such a move brings new energy and vigour to activities. As I said in October's editorial, women are so much nicer anyway - men become far less pompous when brought down to size! Rumour has it that the men of Oatlands made the decision to include women because Ann Crouch wanted to join. Her husband, Eddie, joined later. Knowing Ann, I can see the benefit of feminine charms, and it started the ball rolling. There are now an equal number of women members.



Ann Crouch, Nell Orton and Bob Wise

Members include two retired civil servants, a former warden with sheltered housing, a nurse, a teacher, an ex-employee of the Community Psychiatric Service and, one of the most unusual aspects of Oatlands Branch is that there are two members of staff and their spouses amongst the 15 members. Ann Crouch is National Development Officer, Friendship Circles and John Dunwell is a Development Officer based at Colsterdale. John's wife, Suzanne, is the youngest member, still in her 20s.

Secretary Bob Wise explained that they hold four coffee mornings a year to finance their projects. 'But it has become a social event. People round here support us. We have a cake stall, a book stall and things like bric-a-brac. The average takings are £70. People round here know Toc H because of these coffee mornings.'

'Another regular event is a drop-in centre which we started in conjunction with members of the Methodist Church and the Anglican Church. Every Tuesday morning in the church



hall we serve free coffee and biscuits. People just drop in for a chat - usually people who support our coffee mornings. We get about 40 to 50 people.'

Chairman Dick Stayman, a member since 1939, adds, 'Then our other fundraising activity is a stall at Knaresborough market. We are having one in October. That raises about £150. We also get a sum of money from a local charitable trust and for a great many years we have had a contribution from the Mayor of Harrogate's Charitable Appeal Fund.'

'Our work in the community includes links with the Schizophrenia Fellowship. We have taken some of their members to the centre at Colsterdale and have helped them man fundraising stalls. We have also organised a coach outing every year for many years for the elderly in the area. We usually try to find a destination with a Methodist chapel because they have school rooms with kitchens and we give them a tea. Bob is prominent in the Methodist church and has contacts all over the place.'

'Those who can't come on the trip, we give them a tea here - our branch meets in the Methodist church at Oatlands. Then we do short trips to local markets for members of the drop-in centre and their friends. We hire a coach and take



them to the market and then back again. Usually three or four times in the summer. With the money we get from the Mayors' Fund and the Charitable Trust we make up parcels for the elderly people at Christmas - we give 120 money gifts, 10 tins of biscuits and we give some people a plant.'

Ann Crouch says that what makes the branch so special is their very closeness to their local community. They are very aware of what is happening and the changes in peoples' circumstances. 'They are very caring people. It comes out in jobs like making up the parcels. They know exactly what everyone would like and who is ill, who is in hospital, who has been bereaved....'



Ann Crouch (holding Eve); parents John and Suzanne Dunwell

The branch does a lot of community work individually. Margaret Hawke, a retired teacher, has been visiting the housebound for the last 16 years, visits people in hospital and residential homes and runs a library service for the people she visits. Lilian Asquith helps with the library service. Margaret makes marmalade for fundraising.

Oatlands Branch meet every Wednesday. They spend a lot of their meeting time in planning events and have a 15 minute open forum for discussion each week. At the moment they are reading and discussing *Out of a Hop Loft*.



They visit other branches. Dick Stayman is treasurer of the Colsterdale committee, as well as being on the regional finance sub-committee. He is also District Branch Secretary. Suzanne Dunwell is secretary of the Colsterdale committee. 'Bob and I have painted and dug at Colsterdale. We have been very much involved right from the early days', says Dick.

'Margaret Hawke is our press secretary. We send things in when there is something interesting and have quite a good response. We are pretty well thought of in the community and widely known.'

'What is exercising our minds at the moment is the future of the branch. Our last new member, Peter, joined two years ago. We have lost two members recently and really need a few more to keep the continuity going. We have not gone into it in great depth yet. Maybe a notice in the papers might help, but we still think that personal contact is the best way of attracting people to join.'



Chairman Dick Stayman



Development Officer John Dunwell

The branch fundraising is geared towards adequately financing all their projects and they like to have money in hand. They contribute generously towards the Family Purse.

Most of the branch are practising Christians and see that as an important aspect of Toc H. Their main way of recognising the Fourth Point is to have heated debates about religion. The most recent discussion was about the ordination of women but no conclusive decision was reached - it certainly generated a lot of strong feelings. They observe the World Chain of Light every December.

Suzanne Dunwell became a member of Toc H in 1985, having waited until she felt committed to the Fourth Point before joining. Suzanne says, 'I couldn't feel that I could abide by the Fourth Point for a long time and it wasn't until I became confirmed that I actually joined Toc H as a signed up member. I didn't feel then, and I don't feel now, that it is about being specifically religious.'

The Branch feel that there should be room for spontaneity in meetings. If there is too much of a ritual or routine then there is no life left. Some branches tend to go through the observance of a tight schedule and then the spontaneity suffers and is not there any more. It is important to keep the life force of a branch going.

Oatlands began 33 years ago as an off-shoot of the main Harrogate Branch. Several members in the area started the Branch. Their conclusion is that although only three members are working and all the rest are retired, except Suzanne, who although a young mother is also working part time, they manage to achieve quite a lot. As Dick Stayman says with pride, 'We think we are a pretty good branch.'

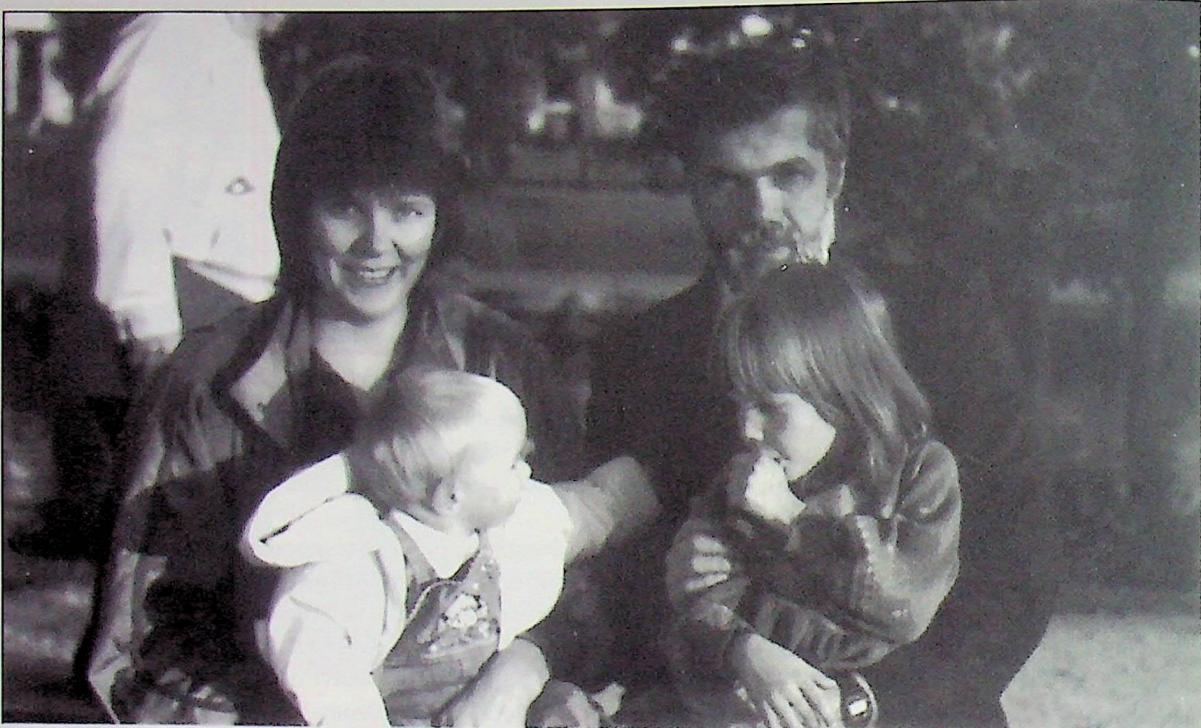
THE DECADE OF EVANGELISM

John 14: 6-7: Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know me and have seen him.'

In the second article in this series, Charles Bonsall, an Anglican priest who worships in the charismatic, evangelical parish church at Harborne, Birmingham, and whose father founded the Birmingham Bible Institute, explains his personal faith and thoughts.

'Don't you think it was a wonderful thing, Padre,' she used to say to me, 'to have that sign, "Abandon rank all ye who enter here", over the Toc H door. Tubby was a wonderful man,' she went on. 'He saw those soldiers with their rotting feet, because of standing so long in the mud, and their gasping lungs shot through and partially destroyed by the terrible mustard gas. He realised that they needed hope. Somehow he was able to instil a moral fibre and a fight into their poor tired bodies which gave them the strength to fight on. He was able to bridge the gap and make the church relevant.'

At the time, I had recently come as curate of the local parish



Valerie and Charles Bonsall with Katy and Emily

Faith comes in at least two packages. The formalised and the personalised. The formalised faith of the church is found in the creed. Toc H has a formalised faith, too, as summed up under the Four Points of the Compass, which themselves assume a Christian foundation.

Personalised faith has to do with how our lives are motivated and changed in line with the formalised 'Faith'. Faith must be more than just a string of well-sounding words recited on Sundays or inscribed in a diary. It must also be a spiritual dynamic which gives power for living.

The Decade of Evangelism is all about spreading faith of both kinds to those people who don't have any. In the 1990s we face one crisis which Tubby Clayton didn't. You could talk meaningfully about England being a Christian country in his day. Now the harsh statistical reality is that a staggering 95 per cent of people do NOT go to church regularly. And of that number only half have a faith which in any sense could be called Christian.

For me, personally, probably my biggest crisis of faith occurred after I had been ordained. I was staying in a flat in the house of an elderly lady whose brother had been a bishop. She was a great admirer of Tubby Clayton.

church. On arrival from theological college, very wet behind the ears, my picture appeared on the front page of the local county paper. The large church to which I had come was full of respectable people. But there was a gap. I remember taking my washing to the local laundrette. I used to wear just an open-necked shirt and the middle-aged ladies in charge showed me how to use the washing machines and they called me 'Luv' in a friendly way. They had got to know me quite well, or so I thought, until on one occasion I arrived in a three-piece suit and a dog collar. As I entered the door from the street, the ladies stood to attention. 'Good morning, Sir,' they chorused together and all but curtsied as I came in with my dirty washing.

I used to play cricket for the diocese and the bishop was the captain. There was a joke that used to make the rounds which went something like this. 'Well done. That was a brilliant catch. Perhaps the Bishop will make you an archdeacon!' It was all very jolly but when the joke had been made 20 times, the awful thought struck me that perhaps the comment might be based on truth.

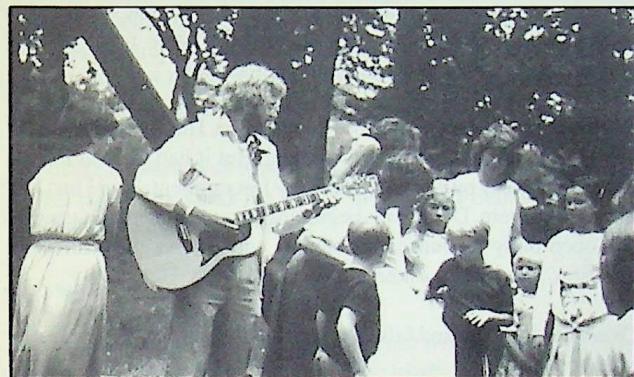
Life in that church was comfortable for so many. The rector used to describe some of the elderly ladies as they came up the aisle for a Wednesday communion as looking like pussy cats. They were so genteel and very sweet-natured and kind to me and elegant in

their expensive furs, but I realised that there was a gap between this respectability and harsher realities.

I saw trauma as a member of the local Samaritans. It was not unusual to have to climb a scaffold to talk to some young fellow who wanted to throw himself off the top, or go into a pub where the landlord was drunk out of his mind because his wife had gone off with somebody else, or to meet a rather pathetic young woman who had been abandoned when she became pregnant.

Somehow this world of pain, not dissimilar to the pain that Tubby Clayton discovered after the war, was not really alleviated in our beautiful church. There was a great gulf fixed between the ladies queueing for communion inside and the others, like that sad and homeless pregnant girl sitting on her suitcase, outside. One of the agnostic leaders of our youth centre said to me 'Charles, me boy, you are batting on a losing wicket'. Thoughts of diocesan cricket interwove with visions of our Ecclesiastical Club House, i.e. the parish church, swirled through my mind. In a moment of shock I realised that, with many others too, I was playing in an ecclesiastical game which was to a degree removed from the real world.

For the first time ever, I faced up to the possibility that perhaps there was no God after all and the creed we recited on Sunday was a myth. I shuddered to think that I might spend the rest of my days drinking tea in polite company, making all the right noises but not getting to grips with reality. It was a great shock. I started to ask what other job a young man who had spent five years studying theology would be able to do.



An Intercon family camp site

At the time my world was rocking for other reasons too. A girl friend told me that she had just been converted FROM Christianity to a full-blooded agnosticism. One of the flower power people, who had been thrown out of his house, was staying in my flat, whilst he looked for somewhere else. My elderly landlady was quite taken with him. Fortunately it did not worry her that he wore big black dustman's boots with yellow squares painted on them. I might not have been so naively welcoming myself, if I had known he was called 'the Acid Christian' because of his liking for LSD. One day he told me that he wanted to go to a Christian community he had just heard about. It was based at a place called Huemoz in Switzerland where they were into art, philosophy and literature looked at from the Christian standpoint.

I said I was interested in going there, too. I had a letter from my sister in Afghanistan that week. 'Why don't you go to Huemoz?' she wrote. 'We've had someone from there and it seems your sort of place'. After that I felt I just HAD to go. I bought a motor bike but had to leave it behind when I failed the test. Came the time of departure, suitably disguised as a student. I hitch-hiked all of the way. On the journey, as I would never have done if I had gone by train, I came nose to nose with despair, greed and lust—all in stark

contrast to the 'niceness' of home. At Huemoz I talked and listened. No one knew I was a clergyman. I sat out in the meadow and looked across the valley. The air seemed crystal clear and I smoked one Disque Bleu cigarette after another.

I do not know how it happened or why. I became aware of the power, the majesty and the glory of God as never before. Suddenly there was a purpose, a meaning. The Lord Jesus who himself had known the reality of suffering and pain and who was not diverted from following the road which ultimately lead to his death on the cross - somehow he was there and was calling me.

When I went back to the dog collar I was never quite the same again. A number of the local art college students who had been taking drugs and who had no Christian background to speak of suddenly discovered the Lord. They were to be seen walking round the town in their outlandish clothes carrying big Bibles under their arms. We used to have Bible studies in my flat. We were learning together that some of those stories from the Bible which had seemed rather over the top and exaggerated were paralleled in our own experience. The Bible was not some archaic book which belonged to the Historical Society. It was vibrantly alive and relevant.

Personally I was to discover that the God who called Abraham into the unknown was still at work. I had often wondered how he might break through a person's prejudice. One day I had a telephone call. 'Would you be interested', a one-time college tutor of mine asked, 'in going to be chaplain in Khartoum?' 'I don't want to leave here,' I replied. 'I've never thought about going abroad. However,' I went on to say, 'if God really does want me away from here, then I suppose I am open for anything.'

Three days later I was driving to my parents' home for my day off. On the journey I listened to a tape, the story of someone's life. I was intrigued. Even though it was midnight, I thought I'd listen to more of the story whilst I was changing. I prayed. 'Lord, if there is something you want to say, please speak.' I felt a curious warmth.

The voice said. 'And then -' there was a slight pause. 'I went to Khartoum.' Two weeks later I travelled from the West of England to a theatre in London and was standing in the queue realising with a start that the man standing just ahead of me was none other than my college tutor who had phoned a fortnight before. We talked some more. Of course, one's life is not changed by two coincidences, but they did set me thinking and after several months and other experiences, too, I was forced to conclude that I had better do what I was told and was in Sudan on and off for the following eleven years.

I have seen much pain, squalor and real heartache. But it has been a privilege to see the way in which the joy of Jesus can shine through, whatever the circumstances. This was, I am sure, the guts of Tubby Clayton's faith, too.

The word 'evangelism' does sound rather churchy. Tubby Clayton would probably agree. But it is a useful shorthand sort of word. If at the end of ten years more faith is shared to more people so that more of the joy and peace and courage which comes from Jesus is spread and people's lives are changed, then it will all be worthwhile, very worthwhile. The Decade of Evangelism will have been worth it.

The Revd Charles Bonsall
is Mission Secretary, Intercontinental Church Society.

BACK TO THE FUTURE II

In the second of two articles, David Harrison talks to some of the people who went on a recent visit to Talbot House, and tells why the group will not be going back again. The trip was an example of one of the Toc H methods called a CAMEO - Come And Meet Each Other.

I still get a little nervous when going into a school. As a child I was led crying and screaming into Pound Lane Infants School, Epsom. Getting educated did get easier by the Sixth form, but I still hate the smell of bulk floor polish and the institutional whiff of carbolic disinfectant.

But now I wasn't going to school to learn from blackboard and text. I was going to interview Daniel Obie, who had recently taken part in a week's trip to Talbot House in Poperinge.

I met Daniel outside the secretary's office. He is black and has what I think is best described as 'presence'. He is in good shape thanks to his fanatical interest in cycling. He looked down at my huge tape recorder. I explained that I have a lousy memory and don't write fast enough to take notes. I don't think Daniel was very impressed. He took me off to find a class-room. Trying to keep up with him, I suggested that asking the secretary for a room for this interview might well have been a better idea. Daniel was having none of that. He opened a door, sat me down and I felt terribly impressed. I felt that if I was back in school, this guy would be my mate, because Daniel just gets things done.

We talked for a while about our time in Belgium. Although it was only a few weeks ago, our stories had matured with a little exaggeration and changes of fact. Daniel had been one of 12 members to visit Belgium in March at the time of the Gulf War. We had gone to see what conflict is all about.

I turned on the recorder and showed some photographs. I asked him what he had been writing at the gate of Passchendaele Cemetery.

'Oh yes, I remember this. I wanted to write something about how this place really affected me. I didn't want to say anything that loads of other people had already written.'

He turned to a photograph of Messines church and we talked about climbing the wooden ladders up to the roof and the fantastic views from the steeple top. And about the carillon. I asked him what he thought about staying in Talbot House.

'It was big. Roomy. That's what I liked about it, and the gardens. I liked the chapel, too. The altar was just made of rough wood, like an old table. But I would like to have met people of our own age.'

I asked what the best day had been for him.

'The best thing about the week was getting away from Bristol. I do get away for some weekends. I like cycling over to Wales, but it was good to get away for a whole week. And the best day was cycling around Bruges and swimming in the Olympic-size pool. That was brilliant.'



Cycling around Bruges

I had hoped that the best day was going to be one of the trips to war cemeteries, churches or museums. Or maybe the time spent in the Upper Room of Talbot House. Something with a little depth to it. Daniel was not saying the right things. I paused, looked towards the tape recorder and considered turning it off. But I didn't. Instead I asked him what his worst moment had been.

'That's easy. It was getting to know the other people on the trip, at the beginning of the week. There were some really strong characters. I knew that I just had to get stuck in.'

Really strong characters was no exaggeration. I had been impressed how quickly relationships had formed. But it had been at a cost. Two of the party pulled out at the very last moment. And I had felt like joining them. Daniel was beginning to settle into this interview. His open body language was saying, 'go on, ask me a difficult question'. So I did. I asked him why we went.

'We went to think and talk about war and conflict.'

This was a fine answer but I knew he could do better, so I asked him about the issue of personal conflict. Now Daniel looked at the tape recorder, also wondering if it was time to switch it off. Everyone knows that a fluffed answer on tape sounds awful. He folded his arms.

'I can remember some of the conversations, like at the war graves. Somebody started talking about liberty, freedom, that sort of thing. It felt like...by standing there in that place...it brought out the "knowledge" in us. We talked about what we had experienced. I felt that we were finding out the truth.'

Because he was struggling with this answer, it made it all the more real. There was something about his description of 'finding out the truth' which was perfect. I asked Daniel how it was that he was thrown out of the museum at Hill 62.

'We weren't. We were in the trenches and this big guy told us to get out. So we got out. Then we walked somewhere that we shouldn't have been. And the same guy told us not to. So we didn't.'

I resisted this angelic presentation and suggested that the group

had been well out of order on some occasions.

'Yes. But we are used to being loud sometimes. And if you get a group of us together, well...you know that you're not going to get much sleep at night. Like, we would try to be quiet, but then somebody would say something and somebody would say something else and then it's six o'clock in the morning.'

Although I had slept soundly through the night, I was aware in the morning that the odd pillow fight must have broken out. I thought I'd ask one more question. I asked Daniel what Toc H is. Daniel's eyes focussed half-way towards the window. I could see him trying to put into a few words the week's experience in Belgium.

'I had never heard of Toc H before this trip. I think it's concerned about today's young people. Toc H helps people to ...realise, to ...appreciate.'

Daniel didn't use my kind of words to describe Toc H. He used his own. Since the interview I have thought about 'appreciate' and 'realise' and I think they are good and honest words to describe a week's work in Talbot House. And good words to describe Toc H.

In the school corridor a bell rang. I began to finish off what I was doing, just as I had done years ago when the school bell had rung for me.

It was obvious that Daniel had really enjoyed the week and this time together had got us both to look again at what it had been all about. I asked Daniel if he would be interested in joining up with the group again. He said that he would and made a note for the 25 April at the YHA cafe. I asked him if he would like to work with Toc H on a project at Lee Abbey in Devon. He said he would.

My next interview was with Jill Wingrove, who was also a leader of this party. Jill works for Toc H, setting up Friendship Circles around Oxford.

I phoned her:

David Hello? Jill, this is David. I was just wondering if you have any lasting impressions of the trip?

Jill Yes, it was awful.

David Awful?

Jill Well, not really, but it was very...

David ...Very what?

Jill Very everything, really. Very difficult, demanding, and yes, I think it was very good work. I thought you had asked me to run five sessions on 'conflict'. I was rather surprised when most of them got cancelled. Whose idea was that?

David What do you think was the best bit?

There was a pause, then a crackle on the line. For a moment I imagined heavy men, in a basement, with headphones. And I wondered what phone tappers would make of this conversation.

Jill The best bit was going home.

David Seriously Jill, do you think it was a good bit of work?

Jill There were some good times. Like when one of the lads played the carillon bells at Messines. He had been such an awkward member of the group. But he played really well. It surprised us all. It was a good moment. I'm not sure how helpful I was but yes, I'm sure it was all very worthwhile.

I felt like assuring Jill about her support and helpful contribution

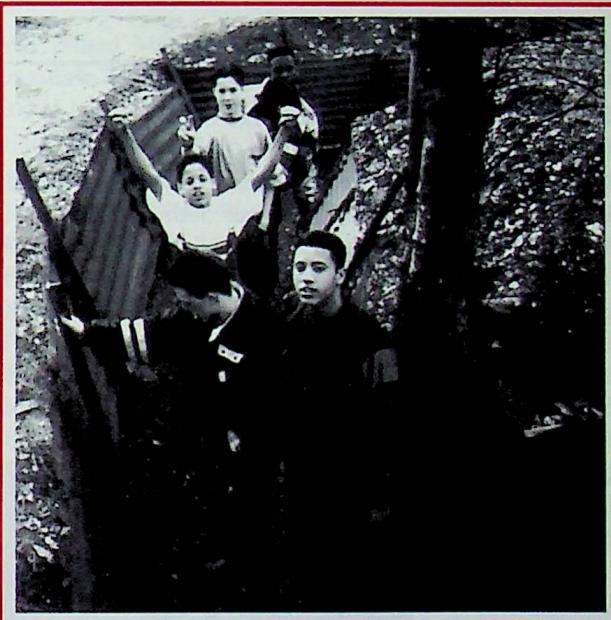
to the group, even if the sessions had not gone exactly to plan. But it's useless arguing with people on the phone. And anyway, I was paying for the call.

The two other leaders both work with Avon and Somerset Constabulary. They work for a special department called the Community Involvement Unit. Ian has that remarkable ability of seeing major problems as an opportunity. Not that he has had some kind of American therapy. It's just that problems hold things up and Ian has not got time for that. His positive style came in very useful during the trip.

Monica has an extraordinary way with young volunteers. There were occasions when the authority she assumed got litter picked up, got contraband removed from volunteers' rooms, but most of all, got respect. These were the times when I looked on, amazed, as if she was bending forks just through will power. These were the occasions when it would have been easier for me to be psychically bending forks than to be getting Jason to pick up his discarded Mars Bar wrappers.

So, on Thursday 25 April the group got together again. Not much had happened since Belgium. Jason had got a job as a panel beater. Spike had walked into a shop, asked for a job and got told he couldn't have it.

For an hour they talked about their trip. Then they talked about wanting to do something else. This time they would take children from Barnados to the seaside. It was their idea for their weekend project.



In the trenches at Hill 62

This group would not be going back to Talbot House. Having realised and appreciated some of its history, it was time to look to the future. They want less of being looked after and want to do some looking after for themselves.

It won't be easy. A police car followed two of the lads home from the YHA cafe. The police hadn't seen them do anything wrong. They just looked suspicious.

David Harrison

is Staff Development Officer based in Bristol.

BRANCH NEWS

THE TUBBY CLAYTON PLAQUE AT KNUTSFORD

Cyril Carrier, Chairman, North West Region, reports: 'On Saturday 27 April a gathering of some 100 members, Builders and district members attended the Church of St John the Baptist, Knutsford, for the unveiling of a plaque to the memory of our founder padre, Tubby Clayton, and his Ordinands Test School. The service, which included Tubby's hymn, *Blest be the day*, was conducted by the vicar, the Revd Michael Walters and assisted by the Revd Basil Jones. In his very inspiring sermon, Michael Walters said that the world was desperately crying out for the love and care which our founder has shown to all he met and today's movement could best honour his memory by continuing and expanding the work he began.'

'Mrs Margaret Lawrence read the lesson and a cheque for £100 was sent to The Tubby Clayton Ordinands Fund'.

RUSHDEN (OAKLEY) WOMEN'S BRANCH

A service of Thanksgiving and Rededication at the Highfield Baptist Church commemorated our 50th Birthday on 23 March when our Padre, Revd John Weaver, gave the address. We then enjoyed a buffet tea in the Church Hall and had a good old reminisce with former members who had come back especially for our birthday', reports Freda Parker. 'The cake was cut by Vera Thornton and Joan Trueman, founder members of the branch, and Mary Edwards, one time member of Rushden and now Chairman of the South West Region, gave a talk. Then there was entertainment by Gilbert and Sullivan Unlimited from Kettering. We give special thanks to members of the Northants District, and over the border in Beds and Herts, who came to join in the fellowship and fun of celebrating Fifty Glorious Years'.



Joan, Megan and Vera

THIS PLAQUE IS IN MEMORY OF
THE REV'D PHILIP THOMAS BYARD TUBBY CLAYTON CH MC DD
1885 - 1972
WHO ON 11th DECEMBER 1915 OPENED A CLUB FOR SOLDIERS CALLED
TALBOT HOUSE IN POPERINGE, BELGIUM
WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE CREATION OF THE WORLD WIDE MOVEMENT
TOC H
WHOSE MEMBERS ARE CALLED UPON TO TEST THE RELEVANCE OF
CHRISTIANITY IN THEIR OWN LIVES
IN 1920 'TUBBY' CAME TO KNUTSFORD AND OPENED AN ORDINATION
TEST SCHOOL IN THE GAOL, FROM WHICH 435 MEN WENT ON TO BE
ORDAINED.
'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM
THANKS BE TO GOD.'

Presented by Members of Toc H in the North West and North Wales Region to mark the 75th Anniversary of Toc H 11-12-90



The Revd Michael Walters and Revd Basil Jones with Mrs Margaret Lawrence and Cyril Carrier

Matthew Plumridge, Woking Branch, reports: 'I was one of the six volunteers who went to Toc H Headquarters on the weekend of 15-17 February in order to collate, assemble and stitch the Summer Project Booklets. We did our own catering, and on Saturday evening were joined by the National Projects Officer/International Officer, John Biggerstaff, and his wife Joan. We much enjoyed their company, which contributed to a very good evening for everyone.'



Smiles of achievement after a hard, but rewarding, week-end's work

'After long demanding hours of work, we finished after lunch on Sunday. We had reached our target of 7212 finished booklets and went on to complete another 400. This amounts to just over 101 booklets per person per hour. Not bad, eh?'



Penelope Bayley, Development Officer based at Lindridge House, writes: 'On 28 April the Toc H Group at Channings Wood Prison in Devon staged its second event. This was a Golden Oldies sing-along evening for local elderly people, along with a few Toc H members and volunteers. The prison choir performed a one and-a-quarter-hour programme in the visits room of the prison. We were treated to songs from shows, Edwardian parlour songs and lots of the old favourites that we all love to sing along to. Song sheets had been printed in the prison.'

'One of the high spots of the evening was compere, Philip Douch. He had choir and audience alike in the palm of his hand. The evening ended all too soon and people were more inclined to stay and chat to new friends than to go home.'

'Now the group has moved on to its next event, putting all its energies into a party inside the prison for handicapped children. I wonder if we can find something for them to do with lots of used song sheets....'



The editor attended the AGM of South Devon District held at Lindridge House in April. The two Central Councillors in the photo are Doug Ward (Chairman) and Clive Pearson. Penelope Bayley, Development Officer based at Lindridge House, is on the right of the photo with 'Perdu'.

Australian Chairman, Harold Clay - a member of Kwinana Branch, Perth, Western Australia - tries to maintain close touch with his Council Executive members, who all reside in Adelaide, South Australia. He likes to join them twice a year. Being retired, he travels by road with his wife Esther, preferably with their caravan, on what is a three and a half day trip to Adelaide. In his latest letter to HQ he says:

'Leaving Perth behind, we travel for some 690 miles between Norseman and Bookabie with only an occasional road-house, and from Balladonia to Caiguna there is a stretch of road which is straight for 93 miles.'



Harold and Esther Clay

'On our last trip in February, we left Perth with a daytime temperature of 45.6C and travelled to New South Wales, via Port Augusta and Broken Hill, with an average temperature of 42C, which required constant in-car air conditioning, resulting in an expired battery by Broken Hill.'

'We visited Melbourne and the newly renovated Point Lonsdale Toc H Camp; attended a meeting of Victoria Toc H in the Mitcham Branch rooms; moved on to Adelaide for a further three meetings of the Burnside Branch, the Area Executive and a Council Executive, before having a couple of days relaxation touring the Yorke Peninsula. The journey home saw a return of the earlier high temperatures and, at the end of four weeks, we had travelled some 5,937 miles on behalf of Toc H'.

Harold describes himself as a 'Brummie' and Esther hails from Tilbury. They moved to Australia in 1959, not previously knowing about Toc H in Britain, apart from a cup of tea they obtained from a Toc H canteen at Catterick Camp. They joined Toc H at Medina, part of Kwinana, some 31 years ago and have enjoyed every moment of their membership 'down under'.

When you next feel like complaining about the distance that you have to travel to attend a Toc H meeting, it might do to think of Harold and Esther plus their caravan. Good on y'a both!!

Cambridge Toc H Branch Secretary, Neville Minas, was among the 129 people chosen to receive the Maundy Money from the Queen at Westminster Abbey. Neville is well known in the movement, chiefly from the time he spent as Warden of the former Toc H Brothers House at Kennington.

THE BIRMINGHAM OUTWARD GROUP

'Giving youngsters a break in life; a chance to grow and to know that they matter. It's about caring. They know we care. Because of what we're doing, the people that we lead are getting a bit of a better chance.'

'Everyone involved has a chance to develop - it is a two-way advantage going on all the time. The leaders become more tolerant as people and their character is moulded through their experience. It is the first principle of Toc H - mixing people up. Some of the leaders wouldn't normally come into contact with the people they do without BOG. It's a bridge for them to be able to come into contact with all sorts.'

The editor recently met the Birmingham Outward Group, better known as BOG, at a Leadership Training Weekend at Lindridge House, Devon.

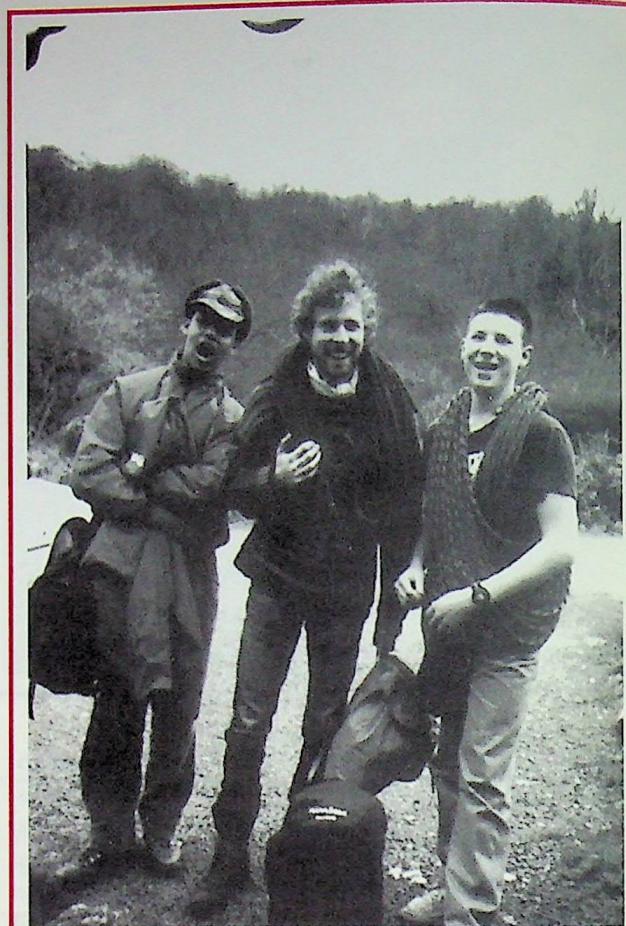
It was gratifying to see the ideals of leadership - which is the theme of Campaign 91 - seized upon so enthusiastically by 17-year-olds in BOG. In fact it is probably the only part of Toc H that is actually growing its own leaders: youngsters who are a bit of a challenge - tough kids from the inner city - who have been exposed to the continuity of four years of going away on BOG weekends, with the same mix of leaders.

All five of the 'kids' I spoke to wanted to stay in BOG now that they had reached 17 and 18, to become leaders and give to others some of the experience that they had enjoyed. BOG is a humbling illustration of our appeal to the young - and not those who have had the advantages of affluent homes, family outings, holidays abroad....

It is a Toc H growth area. The core of 25 to 30 active leaders in the Birmingham Outward Group is a sharp reminder of the potential of recruitment through projects. And theirs are all weekend projects. We often bemoan the fact that in Toc H branches we wait until well advanced in years before starting to worry about getting new members - in BOG they seem to start recruiting them at the age of 12 !

BOG began 25 years ago and, although a branch of Toc H, it prefers to call itself a group - in order to keep the obvious appeal of the name. Which is considerable. My children, Simon (12) and Mark (10), were with me at Lindridge and were bitterly disappointed to have to wait until morning before meeting the people who had fired their imaginations. The group certainly lived up to expectations and, when I blearily emerged after a chilly night on a camp bed in the Lindridge attic, my children were in the middle of the First Aid training session, with Simon the demonstration model - which got full marks from me.

There were a few experienced leaders in the group, led by Toc H member John Pierce - who looked just the part with his easy charm and enthusiastic personality. He runs from 3 to 6 BOG weekends a year. The weekend I attended was the first session of the season, a Leadership weekend to 'get the BOG spirit rekindled' and also



Danny Mowatt, Angus, and Tod O'Donoghue

a training for people who had not run a weekend before. Responsibility for food, money and activities gets spread out among the leaders and all pitch in and help.

John explained. 'We are not professionals at this, which is part of the appeal - we have to rely on enthusiasm, warmth and friendliness instead of dictating skills. Across the group we have got people who have done mountaineering. Two people have done 'Operation Raleigh'. There is a lot of combined experience. It is often when things go wrong that the weekends are most successful. The kids like emergencies. One of the most tiring weekends was when the water pump blew up. We didn't get to our place of arrival until 3.30 am, and had to have an AA relay on the way back - the kids loved it. It was something we were all sharing.'

The secret of their success seems to lie in the fact that everyone is treated the same - there is no pecking order. My enthusiasm began to wane at the idea of the night time ambush exercises at 3 am. They are an energetic lot, the kids, and tiring them out is the only way the leaders can get some sleep, but, as John firmly stated, 'We're all kids together - we enjoy these things as much as anyone.'

I had already met another leader, Louise Neal, when she lived at the

Toc H Birmingham Community Centre for a year. A member of Birmingham District Branch, Louise joined Toc H in 1983 at the age of 15 as a Wimborne Tigger. She knows CEC member Julian Ranson from those days - they both joined Toc H through Projects. She has a strong sense of commitment to the movement and was an LTV for a year. Louise has trained as a nurse and is keen on the more recent plans of BOG to expand their 'client group' to include, for example, special needs children. She currently works at the Trinity Centre for Homeless Men in Birmingham.

Of the leaders on the training weekend, four had once lived at the community centre; two currently were. The newest recruit, Angus, joined BOG after living in the community house and has a lot of climbing experience to offer. Michelle also lived in the house, then got involved in BOG and is now the fundraiser in the appeal section.

It was all a long way from the Outward Bound course I'd once been sent on by a woman's magazine - all self-discipline and endurance testing. If you are one of those sages who believes that a happy life is found in caring friendships and having a sense of humour, you will instantly recognise the appeal of BOG. There's none of the 'starving up a mountain with a lump of Kendal Mint Cake' philosophy. There are hikes, abseiling, canoeing - shared enjoyment in the task ahead, whether making the packed lunch or cooking dinner, and the leaders have just as much fun as the youngsters.

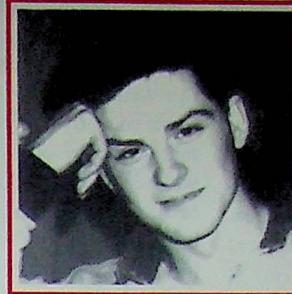
The most remarkable achievement of BOG seems to be the considerable amount of TRUST that is created among their young members. The newest trainee leaders were so open and receptive. They had the confidence of self-expression, the ability to analyse their feelings and to rightly presume that you would be interested.

Eighteen-year-old Osman Abdi is from Sparkbrook and got involved via social services when he was 13, like his brother, Mohammed, who is also a leader. He is a trainee Care Assistant in a special school - on a YTS scheme - and already knows that he wants to work with older children. He wants to do a Toc H project with special needs children this summer. He is gentle and patient. 'I've always wanted to become a leader; I was always asking when I was a kid: "when can I become one?" My first weekend was at Weirside. It rained the whole time. It was a really good weekend.'



Danny Mowatt is also 18 and was attending his second Leadership Training weekend. He is on his second year of an engineering YTS course. 'I wanted to become a leader to help the kids, like I'd been helped, and to have great fun'.

His best friend, Tod O'Donoghue, is a labourer in a meatpacking factory at Coleshill and went on his first project in 1986 when he was 14. He sat next to me for moral support when I drove the smart new yellow BOG bus, and he has a delightful presence about him. Tod told me. 'People have given time for me and I'd like to put some back in. I enjoy these weekends so much, you learn something different each time. To be too old for them and not to be able to go on them would be a real downer for me. I want a bigger part to play than just being an assistant leader. I want to do things like sponsored runs, sponsored abseiling to help with fundraising. I'm willing to do anything.'



Adrian is 18 and has done 10 weekends with BOG since he first got involved at the age of 15. For him it was a natural progression from scouts, as he really enjoys outdoor activities. He decided he wanted to become a leader at the age of 16 when he helped on a weekend project at Lindridge - the others were six or seven years older. 'Everyone is

very friendly and sociable - everyone, even from the start. I am available whenever they want me to be; I volunteer for most of the weekends.'



So what is the formula for their success? John Pierce says, 'Always to be doing something and, if you can, be more whacky than the kids are! You've got to appeal to their sense of humour. What you have got to achieve is a positive creative group - giving a sense of importance and control in a family atmosphere. Doing things as a family. It is more fun than stealing radios.'

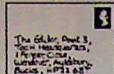


John Pierce with the power-steered BOG bus!

And a final word from one of the founders, Ted Tunnadine: 'The whole ethos of the Outward Group is that it is what the leaders want it to be. They seem to be working very much in a team way with the kids at the moment - inviting them to our meetings and taking them that bit more into the totality of the group.'

'It's all about variety - exciting the interest, giving them a challenge. And it's all about caring and giving. When things go wrong it is the sharing - that's what makes it all better. What it all amounts to is personal growth. To the outside world we are taking the kids on adventure weekends - but it is all a means to personal growth.' ■

Your Letters



ENDANGERED SPECIES!

Toc H is an endangered species!

It doesn't help if we keep living in the dark ages. We need to bring the movement into the 21st century, because we must always be thinking of tomorrow. The world is always changing and so are the needs of the people and the communities that we help. We know that Toc H does not like to 'blow its own trumpet' such as the blood donor service, leprosy and Oxfam. But why shouldn't we? It is time Toc H took credit where credit is due.

We feel that one of the main ways ahead is to 'stop hiding our light' and spread the works of Toc H - through publicity. Like the whale and the panda we can only survive by letting people know who we are and what we do, and getting their support. In the West Midlands we have local papers and radio stations who offer 'free' advertisements and publicity articles for charity organisations. Also on independent television channels they have a community spot during the advertisements. These are just a few ways of getting Toc H known, so why not use them?

Also we, the younger members of our movement, believe that we should have more say in the running of Toc H so that we can dispose of this 'old image' and make our movement a more modern and interesting one. This we hope will enable us to attract new members and not only keep our movement alive but enable it to grow.

W.O.T.C.H. is a young branch, with all our members aged between 18 and their late 20s. Already we have become a well known and controversial branch. To quite a few members of the movement we are seen as a good thing and are guaranteed their full support and help if and when required, but to some we are seen as a bad influence. Why?

We have already done a couple of successful projects of our own, on which we have taken away children and one-parent families; we had success with our Danny Handy Appeal for cerebral palsy, in which one of our methods of raising money was a

'mock wedding' reception, where local branch members and our families were invited and our branch played the parts of the wedding party in role reversal; and most recently we held a 12 hour darts marathon in a local public house in which we raised nearly £300 with the support of local people. During these and countless other fund raising events we have raised thousands of pounds in the name of Toc H, for our branch and for the movement.

Slowly we are getting Toc H known in the community but we become discouraged from time to time - like on flag days when the inevitable question 'What is Toc H?' is asked. We believe that with a little of the right sort of publicity more people will come to understand what Toc H is and what it does.

Let us work together, learn from each other and move forward. Everyone knows that changes cannot be made overnight. Already some of our members are on Regional committees, learning about the workings of the movement and how to handle more responsibility. We are willing to learn but there are also things that we younger members can teach the movement. Please listen to us!

We feel that change is necessary if Toc H is not to go the way of the dinosaur.

Wednesfield Outward Toc H Branch

NOT A PARISH MAGAZINE!

Thank you for the April *Point three*. It is a special and important issue. Your leader could not have been better - it must have been so difficult to write. I have read John Weaver with great interest and thanks. Somehow I feel that within Toc H today we have lost something. I don't want us to become regarded as just another bit of do-gooding nor do I want the magazine to become like a Parish Magazine.

I should tell you how, in Jamaica, I got into trouble with my Branch by saying at a Toc H service that the Branch was not just a men's club, but that its Christian origin and aim must be recognised and respected. A Hebrew member reported me to London HQ in anger but HQ, I learnt much later, backed me up. My Methodist colleagues, all members of the Branch, said in the vestry after the service 'That had to be said and you've said it'. Rather like your leader in April's issue.

Canon Harold Lovell
Hatfield

DIRECTOR OR PILOT?

John Mitchell's fine stint as Director of Toc H finishes in the autumn. Is it now time to consider whether 'Director' is the right title for this crucial role in the movement?

When this title was introduced not many years ago, some members voiced dismay that we had decided to adopt the fashion, then current in industry, commerce and other fields, of calling the leading person 'Director'. Objections were countered with the assertion that the title had become common even in 'charities'.

We ourselves have now grown accustomed to describing the movement as a charity. Perhaps this usage has arisen because it was thought easier to describe a charity (defined in terms of what it does) than a movement like ours, which is described in terms of what it aims at, that is, 'moving' people towards what the Four Points of the Compass call for and what the Toc H Prayer asks God's help for.

Far from apologising for or abandoning our strange but trenchant titles, especially Pilot and Jobmaster - I believe we should be proud of them and stick to them, using them to reinforce the idea of a movement and its distinction from a charity. If their unusual nature causes people to ask, 'What is a Pilot? What is a Jobmaster?' - this will provide a good opportunity to explain what the movement is all about.

I therefore suggest we call the leader's office in Toc H the Pilot - perhaps HQ Pilot or National Pilot.

Rudolf Loewy
Western Approaches and Chiltern Vale District Branch

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Much as we have learned to reach out in love to people of other faiths, it is important that we do not lose sight of the rock from which we in Toc H have been hewn. There can be no compromise in the belief of a Christ who is our Saviour, whose coming was unique in all history. This is the good news which we are to share with everybody.

Many of us are seeing the Spirit of God move in power, and rejoice that many churches are being renewed. Toc H has its part to play; we can be grateful for the past and look forward to a vibrant Christian faith being lived out in the future.

Revd Tony Wharton
Cirencester

Up Date

Welcome to 31

New Members

The following new members were registered during March/April:

William C Todd (Bognor Regis J)
 Mrs Ellen A Williams (Buckingham J)
 Stewart Casimir (Central Branch)
 Mrs Gladys Mullock (Chirk J)
 Revd Thomas A Wharton (Cirencester J)
 Revd Colin Alsbury, Mrs Avril Cochrane,
 Miss Marian Heimes, Mrs Celia Johnson,
 James Smart (Crewe & North Staffs District)
 Mrs Nancy G Talbot (Downend W)
 Mrs Peggy J Long (Gorleston & Gt Yarmouth J)
 Miss Doreen N Newman (Hunstanton J)
 Mrs Emily Tompkins, Leonard G Tompkins
 (Kendal J)
 Mrs Ethel Rackham (Kirkley W)
 Ms Mandy E Aley (Melton Mowbray Action J)
 Mrs Marjorie L Mackay (Milford on Sea J)
 Mrs Sheila B Morley (St Albans W)
 Mrs Frances A Clarke, Miss Wendy D
 Hutchinson, Mrs Mona Pearce (Shavington J)
 Mrs Elizabeth Bainbridge, Mr Norman
 Bainbridge, Shirley A Fletcher, Inge Gaines
 Burrill, Barbara V Goodison, Frank Marshall
 (Saltburn J)
 Henry A 'Harry' Green (Swindon District)
 Mark V Hibbett, Miss Margaret A Stevens
 (Tunbridge Wells East J)

WEBB HOUSE CENTENARY

Philip Webb, the eminent Victorian architect, died in 1915, the year Toc H was born. Many buildings still stand as testimony to his skill and care in designing with people in mind. One of the most striking of these is the large house, originally designed as an office and completed in 1891, which stands in Zetland Road, Middlesbrough and which Toc H christened Webb House. On 25 April staff and members of Webb House welcomed scores of visitors to an impressive celebration to mark the centenary.

'Over 100 people watched Lady Bell, a descendent of the Bell Brothers (Ironmakers) who commissioned the



building, unveil a memorial plaque. She spoke of the history of the house and of her joy in its restoration and preservation', reports Director John Mitchell.

'The major focus of the celebration is the creation of a large commemorative tapestry, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bolland, presented cheques worth £1000 towards it. It was designed by Barbara Agar on the basis of views and feelings expressed by Webb House members, and it beautifully combines references to the Cleveland area, to Toc H, and to the healing that Webb House offers today. The tapestry is a true community effort - many many people have added a stitch or two - and when complete it will occupy a commanding place near the entrance of Webb House'.



The Jimmy Saville Mini-Handy Dance was held at Cheshunt in Herts recently. For the first time, this year it was run as a weekend project rather than as a day event. All attending enjoyed a disco, with a buffet and raffle, on the Saturday evening.

Obituaries

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In November

Stephen B Dalston (South Devon)

In January

Dorothy Wright (Malton)

In March

Harry S Brooker (Eastbourne)
 Annie M Matthews (Garforth)
 Leonard Statham (Shavington)
 Sybil Taylor (Fareham)

In April

Donald Aldridge (Springfields District)
 Ivy I Brealey (Mablethorpe)
 Gladys R Glanville (Bitterne)
 Dolores Hart (Springfields District)
 Alfred J Pengelly (Looe)
 Albert E Presland (Biggleswade)
 Edward Roberts (Bala)

Leslie J Stein (Ayr)
 Charles Taylor (Wigmore)

Not previously recorded

Fred Appleton (Saltburn)
 James L Frayne (Kidderminster)
 Elizabeth C Jones (Bala)
 Winifred M Stevens (Twydall)

Fareham Branch report with sorrow the death on 28 March of a highly valued member and former Jobmaster, **Sybil Taylor**. Her working life was spent in nursing, and she first met Toc H while working in Oxford. A true Christian in every sense of the word, she will be sadly missed.

WNG

Garforth Branch sadly record the death, on 9 March, of a cherished member, **Annie Matthews**. She loyally served, and contributed much to, the movement as a member of Garforth Branch from the time of its foundation 24 years ago.

DB

It was with regret that we learned of the sudden death in February of **Stephen Walker** at the age of 35. He joined Toc H as a member of the North Tees Group in 1976 and was a member in turn of Stockton Group (1977), Kennington (London - 1981) and Newbury

(1987), where he became a Central Councillor in the Southern Region. Stephen spent many years on Toc H projects both as a volunteer and as a leader. He often visited Talbot House, coming to love and respect all that The Old House offered.

JAB

Monica Savage, who died on 6 April, was (as Monica Hill) an early member of Toc H in the St John's Wood Branch (London). She joined the staff in the 1930s to work in the north of England. Deeply touched by her experiences on Tyneside, she initiated the foundation of York House by the Women's Association at Felling-on-Tyne as a house for friendship for the families in need there. In 1935 Monica toured South Africa, remaining there on the staff until 1937, when she married Tom Savage in All Hallows, where he had been a curate with 'Tubby' Clayton. Monica served as a lively, rather critical member of the Central Executive of Toc H W.A., putting forward fresh ideas and successfully arousing enthusiasm for them.

EW

Poperinge Branch and Talbot House have lost one of their oldest and most loyal friends with the death on 29 November 1990, of **Ernest Leeuwerck** at the age of 85. A professional photographer, Ernest lived across from Talbot House and visited regularly, from boyhood onwards, until he was forced to remain indoors by ill health. His active support and friendship will be sadly missed.

VD

We give thanks for their lives

BANGLADESH

Since the May edition of *Point three*, featuring the work of the Khasdorib Youth Action Group, disaster struck Bangladesh when a major cyclone wrought havoc in Chittagong and the delta area up to Dhaka.

In connection with this at 7.30 pm on Saturday 8 June, a 'Bangladesh Evening' is to be held at the Toc H community house at 38 Newark Street, Whitechapel, London E1 2AA, telephone: 071 247 5110. The cost for those attending will be a minimum payment of £5, all of which will go to the disaster relief fund. If any branches or members wish to be identified with this appeal, contributions can be sent to John Biggerstaff at Headquarters. Cheques should be made payable to Toc H please.

WEBB HOUSE

require two volunteers to live-in as supporters to offer friendship and a sympathetic ear to residents; to provide cover in the residence when the residency workers are absent, i.e. night time and weekends; to contact the residency workers if a problem arises outside working hours.

For further details please contact:
Paul Harpin, Toc H Webb House,
7 Zetland Road, Middlesborough,
Cleveland TS1 1EH. Tel: 0642 230982

A PEACE OF FLANDERS

A special visit to Talbot House, Poperinge from 8 to 12 November 1991 at a time of Remembrance to explore issues of conflict and reconciliation.

Departure from Hatfield or Dover Priory Station. Some local overnight accommodation may be available on application.

Leaders. John Burgess and Alan Johnson.

Cost: approximately £120.

For further details please write, or to book a place, please send a deposit of £40 to:

John Burgess

66 Park Meadow, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5HB
(cheques payable to: J.U.Burgess - Toc H Account)

Please note: Some selection of applicants will be made to ensure a balanced group.

TOC H PROJECTS--SUMMER 1991

HARROGATE PLAYTIME 28 July - 3 August

RIPON PLAYTIME 18 - 24 August

Both projects are for one week and the aim is to entertain 20 children with special needs, giving parents as well as children a much needed break. The activities will be during school hours and some will be on an integrated basis with able bodied children. There will be ample time for the volunteer group to get to know each other and, perhaps, do a little exploring of the area.

Minimum Age: 17 years

Cost: £10 - inc. £5 Reg.Fee

These Projects do not appear in the Summer 1991 Toc H Projects Booklet, but applications are invited for them in the usual way.

More information can be obtained from Regional Project Co-ordinator:

Di Claxton, 142 Hangingwater Road
Nethergreen, Sheffield, S. Yorks S11 7ET
Tel: 0742 306861

THE STILL CENTRE

FRIDAY 20 to SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

at CUDDESDON HOUSE

During this weekend there will be an opportunity to think about stillness with some periods of silence interspersed with talks and discussion.

Cost for the weekend will be £20.

Further details from
Revd Alan Johnson at Headquarters

BRIDLINGTON TOC H ACTION GROUP

Invite you to their 10th Birthday Festival

Saturday 27 July 1991, 10am to 6pm
at Bridlington Lower School, Quay Road

We are looking for about 20 volunteers for the day's events to act as marshalls, stall holders, general helpers. Also people willing to bring their own stalls. There will be a nominal charge for a stall but all proceeds thus raised will be for your own group.

For further information please contact:
Miss Diane Bolton, Publicity Officer, Bridlington TAG, 15 Haslemere Avenue, Bridlington YO15 2EB. Tel: 0262 678423

AN HONEST TEST

The Revd Bob Knight's delightful and challenging book has been attractively re-designed, and considerably updated with new material and an additional chapter.

A considerable demand is anticipated and 500 advance copies have already been ordered, so book your copy now

from

Jenny Small in the Editorial Department at Headquarters

Price £2.00 (incl. p&p)

ELMSTEAD JOINT BRANCH

Invite you to their Coffee Evening on

Friday 9 August 1991 at 7.30pm

There will be many interesting Stalls.

The Community Centre, Elmstead Market
Near Colchester, Essex.
Admission 25p (to include coffee and biscuits)

Falmouth Toc H. Holiday accommodation for five plus
cot. £60 per week. Falmouth 0326 312689

Campaign 91. THE THIRD STAGE

- a) At Cuddesdon...on the week-end 27/29th September
- b) In Nottingham...on the week-end 11/13th October

"Now is the time to apply for a place on one of these week-ends, at which we will be working with each other on ways in which we can all take on some new responsibility for the growth of Toc H"

Cost £5 per head, payable on application. Applications to Bill Bains, 25 Whinmoor Gardens, Leeds, LS14 1AF.

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 10p a word (minimum £1) plus VAT, to *Point three* Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Hythe, Kent - homely accommodation in member's home. Bed/breakfast and/or evening meal or full board, very reasonable rates. Enquire Nesta Cock, 7 Tourney Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT12 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407